

Section II (Amendment of the Claims)

Please amend claims 1, 4-14, 16, 18-19, 24 and 25, in the listing of claims 1-26 set out below.

1. (currently amended) A canister guard for coupling to a canister at an outlet thereof and for preventing liquid chemical in the canister from exiting through the outlet when pressure is applied through a canister inlet of the canister, said canister guard comprising:

an elongate housing enclosing an interior volume therewithin, said housing including a circumscribing sidewall, a closed bottom portion and a flow passage at an upper portion of the housing for egress of gas from the interior volume of the housing;

circumferentially spaced-apart openings around a lower portion of the circumscribing sidewall, for flow of gas from outside of the housing into the interior volume thereof; and

longitudinally spaced-apart flow-through baffles in the interior volume of the housing, each flow-through baffle being joined to a respective inlet opening in the circumscribing sidewall and extending from said inlet opening into the interior volume of the housing, with a discharge opening at an interior portion of the flow-through baffle, and an interior passage joining the inlet opening and the discharge opening, for flow of gas from outside of the housing through inlet openings, interior passages and discharge openings of the flow-through baffles into the interior volume of the housing.

whereby when pressure is applied through an inlet of the canister, gas flows into the interior volume of the housing through (i) the circumferentially spaced-apart openings around the lower portion of the circumscribing sidewall and (ii) the longitudinally spaced-apart flow-through baffles, so that gas egresses from the housing through said flow passage at the upper portion of the housing and liquid escape from the canister is restrained during such gas egress.

2. (original) The canister guard of claim 1 for removably coupling to the canister.

3. (original) The canister guard of claim 1 comprised of one of stainless steel and a synthetic fluorinated hydrocarbon.

4. (currently amended) The canister guard of claim 1 comprising a sidewall having sidewall inlet therethrough to allow air from the canister through to the outlet wherein the discharge opening at

the interior portion of the flow-through baffle comprises an open interior end of the flow-through baffle.

5. (currently amended) The canister guard of claim 4 further comprising a baffle extending from said sidewall for the preventing wherein each flow-through baffle comprises a solid wall bounding the interior passage of the flow-through baffle, and extending from the inlet opening in the circumscribing sidewall to the open interior end of the flow-through baffle.

6. (currently amended) The canister guard of claim 5 wherein said sidewall inlet is one of a baffle inlet through said baffle and lower inlet below said baffle housing has a cylindrical shape.

7. (currently amended) The canister guard of claim 5 having a length there across transverse dimension, with each said flow-through baffle extending a distance from said sidewall at least about half of the length transverse dimension.

8. (currently amended) The canister guard of claim 7 wherein the length is a diameter of said transverse dimension is between about 1/8 inches and about 3/4 inches.

9. (currently amended) A The canister guard of claim 1, wherein said flow-through baffles extend transversely into the interior volume of the housing so that successive adjacent flow-through baffles transversely overlap one another comprising:

a sidewall for extending through an outlet of a canister, said sidewall having a sidewall inlet therethrough; and

a baffle extending from said sidewall.

10. (currently amended) The canister guard of claim 9 1 having a length of between about 4 inches and about 6 inches.

11. (currently amended) The canister guard of claim 9 further comprising a sealed bottom extending from said sidewall said sidewall, said baffle and said sealed bottom to prevent liquid chemical from exiting the canister through the outlet when pressure is applied through a canister inlet of the canister 1 further comprising non-flow baffles in the interior volume of the housing.

12. (currently amended) The canister guard of claim 9 wherein the sidewall inlet is a lower inlet below said baffle 11, wherein the non-flow baffles are positioned above the flow-through baffles.

13. (currently amended) The canister guard of claim 9 1 further comprising a lip for removably securing said canister guard at the outlet.

14. (currently amended) A canister for containing liquid chemical, said canister comprising a canister guard as claimed in claim 1 over an outlet of the canister for preventing liquid chemical from exiting therethrough when pressure is applied through a canister inlet of the canister.

15. (original) The canister of claim 14 wherein said canister guard is removable.

16. (currently amended) The canister of claim 14 wherein said canister guard includes a sidewall with a baffle extending therefrom lip circumscribing the flow passage at the upper portion of the housing, and engageable with the outlet of the canister.

17. (original) The canister of claim 14 wherein the canister inlet is located at said canister substantially opposite the outlet.

18. (currently amended) A liquid delivery system comprising:

a remote cabinet;
a canister housed in said remote cabinet and having a canister guard as claimed in claim 1 over an outlet thereof for preventing liquid from exiting therethrough when pressure is applied through a canister inlet of said canister; and
a reactor coupled to said remote cabinet to receive a portion of the liquid.

19. (currently amended) The liquid delivery system of claim 18 wherein the canister contains a liquid, and the liquid includes one of tetramethylorthosilicate, titanium tetramethylcyclotetrasiloxane, tetrakis tetrakis dimethylamino titanium, tetramethylborate, triethylborate, trimethylphosphate, triethylphosphate triethylphosphate, trimethylphosphite and trimethyl silane.

20. (original) The liquid delivery system of claim 18 wherein said reactor is a chemical vapor deposition apparatus.

21. (original) The liquid delivery system of claim 18 wherein said canister is a bulk canister coupled to a process canister in said remote cabinet via the canister inlet.

22. (original) The liquid delivery system of claim 21 wherein the bulk canister and the process canister include level sensors.

23. (original) The liquid delivery system of claim 21 wherein the bulk canister is replaceable.

24. (currently amended) A method comprising purging a liquid from a line coupled to a canister at an inlet thereof, the canister including a canister guard as claimed in claim 1 at a canister outlet thereof for substantially preventing the liquid from exiting through the canister outlet.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the canister is a first canister and further comprising:

dissociating disassociating the first canister from the line;
removing the canister guard from the first canister; and
replacing the first canister with a second canister.

26. (original) The method of claim 24 further comprising:

disassociating the canister from the line; and
filling the canister with liquid.